Financial Secretary Mr. George:—

"Sir,

With reference to the interpellation (No. III) of Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai at the meeting of the Council held on the 7th April 1920, I now lay on the table the statement required by him regarding the number and value of coins and currency notes of different denominations constituting the Treasury Balances at the commencement of 1095 and the four preceding years."

President:—"The next item in the agenda is the interpellations and answers. The Non-Official Members of the Council will, please, put the interpellations in the order in which they are noted against their names."

Interpellation.

Mr. N. Kumaran Asan.

1. I. Are not the Government aware that there has been an ever-growing feeling of discontent among the Ezhavas and the other so called non-caste Hindus, who form the bulk of His Highness' Hindu subjects, since even their ordinary rights of citizenship are still withheld in many respects and since they are unnecessarily put to various inconveniences and troubles and also to humiliation on social basis? If they are,

(1) will they be pleased to order—

(*a*) the immediate removal of the boards put on public roads leading to, but in many instances far removed even from, the outer walls of certain temples, prohibiting such people from using them; and

(*b*) the discontinuance of such prohibition in future?

(2) Will they be pleased also to declare all public schools, satroms and other public buildings thrown open to them without distinction and thus allow them at least the freedom and the privileges which would be theirs at the moment they become converts to Christianity?

2. II. In view of the fact that repeated orders from Government which directed the Heads of Departments to accord preferential treatment to the applications for posts from Ezhavas and other disfavoured communities have failed to have any effect worth mentioning on some Departmental Heads, will the Government be now pleased, as a further and more effective step, to call upon each Department, major or minor, to maintain a register showing—

Answer.

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

The answer is in the negative.

(*a*) & (*b*). If specific instances are given, Government will enquire.

(2) The avowed policy of the Government has been to throw open, to all classes of His Highness' subjects, all public schools and satroms, as far as possible. Wherever, on account of proximity of temples or other causes, it is not possible to give effect to this policy in regard to public schools, arrangements are being made to provide buildings in places accessible to all classes. As regards satroms, the Member is referred to G. O. No. P. W. 1790 A, dated the 19th March 1913, published on pages 585 and 586 of Part I of the Gazette dated the 8th April 1913.

Until specific instances are brought to the notice of the Government, no definite action can be taken.

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Interpellation.

(1) the number of posts available (permanent or temporary) under each;

(2) the number of applications received;

(3) the full name, caste or nationality, educational and other qualifications of the applicants;

(4) the date of receipt of the applications; and

(5) how and when they are disposed of; and

call for a monthly or at least quarterly return being submitted to Government, without fail, so that they may be able to see the cause of the complaint at a glance and try to remove it at once to the satisfaction of the said communities?

3. III. It is widely felt that the present pay of the teachers of the Vernacular Schools, notwithstanding the minimum being raised to Rs. 12 per mensem recently, is too low. In view of this fact and considering the educational qualifications and the responsible task of teaching our young children entrusted to their hands, will the Government be pleased to further enhance their salary—not the minimum only but also in all grades up to the maximum, which, being at present Rs. 30 only, is itself very low indeed, and relieve the teachers from their present wretched condition which has been made worse by the current abnormally high prices of the necessaries of life?

Have the Government already taken, or do they propose to take, any practical steps in this direction? If so, will the Government be pleased to say what they are and when they will have effect?

Mr. S. Adam Sait.

4. I. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a detailed statement of the total number of Hindus, Christians and Mahomedans in the Public Service, drawing a salary of Rs. 10 and above, with their qualifications; also another statement showing the number of vacancies that occurred, new appointments created, the date of entertainment of the persons appointed permanently or acting, the date of confirmation, the prescribed qualifications for the posts, and the exemptions, if any, granted, during the last five years?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the measures taken by them to remove the present disabilities of the very few qualified Mahomedans in the matter of appointments and to give proper encouragement to those that are in the service?

5. II. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken on the various representations made by some of the Members of the Sri Mulam

Answer.

The minimum pay of these teachers having been only recently raised, Government do not now propose to raise it further. The question of an increase in the higher grades will be considered.

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

First part. Information will be called for

Second part. It will not be possible to compile any reasonably short statement giving all the varied information required by the Member. As regards the qualifications prescribed for the several posts in the Government service, the Member is referred to the Public Service Notification published on pages 1119 to 1129 of Part I of the Gazette dated the 16th September 1919.

The question is too vague to admit of a definite answer; but the Government would assure the Member that every encouragement is being given to qualified and deserving Mahomedan employees.

Financial Secretary Mr. K. George.

The increase of expenditure on "Salaries" and "Establishment" in the past few years is partly due to the reorganisations of the